

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WYCOMBE DISTRICT  
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION  
7.30 PM ON THURSDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025.

- The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector Simon Lincoln, TVP, and Garin Christie of Buckinghamshire Council.
- Attendees: Committee Members – Caterina Doderio, Rosie Lewry, Geoff Pegg, Eric Hambling, Derek Colegrove, Ray Cox and Stan Jones plus others totalling 19 people.
- Apologies for absence: Superintendent Euan Livingstone, Jennifer Swallow

Chairmans Introduction

As usual it has been a busy year with some disappointments and some successes, which Geoff will no doubt cover later.

As you probably know our association is noted for our innovations that have included the Bucks New University scheme and schemes at several mosques. This year we have set up our first Youth Watch Scheme at Cressex Community school, further extending our age range. It also means to support them we need to focus on the specific crimes that are relevant to youngsters.

TV police, having decided on a single command area for Bucks led by Chief Superintendent Emma Burroughs, are now redefining the borders within Bucks. Although the final boundaries of the three police areas, Aylesbury, Wycombe and South Bucks are still to be clarified it seems our old Wycombe District boundaries are becoming increasingly mismatched. It appears that I now live in Aylesbury area and Geoff in South Bucks. We will work with the police to make sure this doesn't affect our operations, through regular monthly meetings with inspector Duggan.

We also work closely with Bucks Council safety team, regularly attending events they organise.

As we have noted before, cons and scams represent some 50% of all crimes with criminals dreaming up new versions every day. The general rule is if you get any communication you do not expect, phone, mail or e-mails, do not respond immediately, have a good think about whether it could be luring you into giving away personal details that could be used against you.

Burglaries continue and tend to happen in bursts as some criminals move around the country and sometimes descend on our area. If an area is covered by a NHW scheme, with members aware of the steps to fight back, it tends to deter burglars who would rather have an easier time somewhere else.

More expensive cars are still being stolen from drives because of the new remote door opening technology. You can prevent it by making sure your car keys are inaccessible, possibly using one of our pouches. Drug dealing continues to be commonplace and it is important to report it and any other crime to the police. All information is recorded and acted on based on its severity. If you see drug dealing in your area, report it each time it is seen, and by all those who witness it, so it raises its level of severity and will be acted on accordingly – so keep reporting.

Apart from continuing to add schemes and scheme leaders, we also need to boost our committee, preferably with some younger members. Volunteers would be most welcome.

I hope that being a member of a NHW scheme makes you feel safer and be safer in your home and neighbourhood.

Finally I would like to thank our Ops director Geoff Pegg for all the work he does for the Association and Eric for his technical help.

Minutes of the last AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024: Accepted with no comments.

Operations Director's report of the work done by the Association during 2024:

Geoff gave an abbreviated report as the original was long and had already appeared on our website. He identified that we remained self-funding in 2024, we had resolved very many Alert database issues, published many articles in local magazines, carried out 17 live radio interviews, held 5 table displays outside mosques, sent out 65 Alert messages, and started a total of 13 new NHW schemes in the year.

The audited accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024:

These will be posted on the website. Derek Colegrave explained the financial status. David Rouse was thanked for auditing the accounts and was voted as auditor for next year by the remote election.

Election of members of the committee:

Voting results: Election of members of the committee of the Association – Caterina Doderio, Eric Hambling, Shafait Ali, Bill Potts, Rosie Lewry, Derek Colegrave, Geoff Pegg and Stan Jones were elected unopposed.

Election of officers of the Association – Stan Jones, Geoff Pegg and Derek Colegrave were elected unopposed.

Any other business:

None.

Following the conclusion of the official business of the Annual General Meeting the chairman closed the meeting.

There followed the presentations of our two speakers, Garin Christie, Bucks Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and Chief Inspector Simon Lincoln, Bucks Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Garin said they had a small team to cover Bucks but work closely with others such as Street Wardens. They concentrate on non-crime related ASB but also work closely with the police and others through their monthly multi-agency meetings. Their aim is to resolve as many problems as possible avoiding formal procedures or police action, but can act formally if necessary. Garin pointed out the significant number of referrals they had handled over the past month. They also organise Community Action Days where agencies/organisations present the roles they play including NHW.

Simon described the structure of the police in Bucks and the increasing numbers of PCs and PCSOs. He also gave the positive results of their operations to counter burglaries, vehicle crime, knife crime, and retail crime. He also noted the expected improvements planned for the Alert messaging.

In the question and answer sessions there was a debate about apparently abandoned cars and inappropriate parking especially on pavements. Some of the cars are thought to be used to store drugs. There is a perceived problem over the responsibility for these issues as it is shared between the police and county council. There was also a question about the different methods of reporting to TVP which was explained by Simon. There were comments about beggars in Wycombe. One attendee explained how he had been conned out of money by a female going around cars in a supermarket car park with a sob story. Simon reminded everyone to use the giving stations in the town centre rather than giving cash directly. Some residents are reluctant to raise issues directly to the police, although they could do so without revealing their identity, or Crimestoppers could be used.

In view of the time the Chair suggested that his presentation on burglary prevention was postponed to a subsequent meeting but copies of the three-page guide was made available to attendees.

After the presentations the Chairman thanked Garin and Simon for their very interesting contributions, everyone for attending and closed the meeting.